

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 09562 01 OF 02 161116Z
ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 PM-03 SP-02 INR-05
CIAE-00 NSAE-00 DODE-00 IO-06 OMB-01 L-01 H-01
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R 161104Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7225
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
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AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 09562

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, TU, GR, CY
SUBJ: UK VIEWS ON EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

1. SUMMARY: DURING JUNE 15 MEETING AT FOREIGN OFFICE AND SUBSEQUENT LUNCHEON COUNSELOR NIMETZ AND EUR/SE DIRECTOR EWING DESCRIBED A) RECENT US CONTACTS WITH GREEK, TURKISH, AND CYPRIOT LEADERS IN WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK; AND B) PROSPECTS AND LIKELY TIME SCHEDULE FOR CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION OF ADMINISTRATION PROPOSAL TO REPEAL TURKISH ARMS EMBARGO RESTRICTIONS. OTHERS PARTICIPATING WERE UNDER SECRETARY EWAN FERGUSON, FCO SOUTHERN EUROPE DEPT HEAD TIMOTHY DAUNT, TURKEY AND CYPRUS DESK OFFICERS AND EMBOFF KIMBALL.

2. NIMETZ SAID CYPRUS PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU SEEMED TO SPEND MUCH OF HIS TIME WHILE IN NEW YORK SEEKING TO
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PAGE 02 LONDON 09562 01 OF 02 161116Z

ARRANGE MEETING WITH ECEVIT WHILE AVOIDING TALKING WITH DENKTASH. LATTER HAD BEEN AT HIS MOST POSITIVE AND HAD MADE FAVORABLE IMPRESSION WITH CONGRESSMEN HE MET. GREEK CYPRIOTS HAD SHOWN NO INTEREST IN TURKISH POSITIONS ON TERRITORY OR VAROSHA, INCLUDING POSSIBLE INTERIM UN ADMINISTRATIVE ROLE WHICH IF ACCEPTED BY TURKS WOULD SEEM CLEARLY TO IMPLY ULTIMATE RETURN OF

VAROSHA TO GREEK CYPRIOTS IN CONTEXT OF SETTLEMENT. IN RESPONSE FCO QUESTIONS,NIMETZ SAID HE THOUGHT CURRENT GREEK CYPRIOT TACTICS WERE CLEARLY EMBARGO-RELATED BUT THERE ALSO SEEMED EVIDENCE THAT KYPRIANOU WAS BACKING AWAY FROM BIZONAL FEDERAL STRUCTURE WHICH MAKARIOS HAD ACCEPTED AND FROM PREEMINENCE OF INTER-COMMUNAL FORUM.

3. NIMETZ SAID THAT SINCE EMBARGO REPEAL PROPOSAL WAS PART OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZATION BILL IT WAS LIKELY THAT VOTE IN HOUSE WOULD OCCUR BEFORE END OF JUNE AND NOT BE POSTPONED UNTIL SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER. WHICHEVER WAY EMBARGO VOTE GOES WE WERE CONCERNED ABOUT OUR RELATIONS WITH GREECE AND TURKEY AND ABOUT CONDITIONS IN EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN REGION.

4. FERGUSON SAID IN EFFORT TO RESPOND TO MAY 30 NIMETZ/HIBBERT CONVERSATION IN WASHINGTON (STATE 141344) FCO HAS ASSESSED WHAT TURKEY MIGHT DO SHOULD EMBARGO CONTINUE IN FORCE. BRITISH SAID THAT IN LIGHT OF WHAT ECEVIT HAD SAID AT NATO SUMMIT IN WASHINGTON TOTAL TURKISH WITHDRAWAL FROM NATO OR EVEN FROM INTEGRATED MILITARY STRUCTURE WAS VERY UNLIKELY. MORE LIKELY WAS RE-EARMARKING CERTAIN FORCES TO DIRECT THEM AT GREECE, DEFINITIVE CLOSURE OF US FACILITIES AT WHICH ACTIVITIES ARE SUSPENDED, REQUEST THAT NUCLEAR WEAPONS BE WITHDRAWN, INCREASED PROBLEMS FOR US OVERFLIGHTS OF TURKEY, A MUCH TOUGHER ATTITUDE
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PAGE 03 LONDON 09562 01 OF 02 161116Z

TOWARD A SPECIAL REGIME FOR GREECE IN NATO, NEW DIFFICULTIES FOR ANY NATO EXERCISES IN AREA, AND A "THICKENING"

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PAGE 01 LONDON 09562 02 OF 02 161114Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 09562

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OF TURKISH RELATIONS WITH USSR AND EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. AS COUNTERVAILING FORCES, FERGUSON NOTED TURKISH NEED FOR WESTERN SUPPORT TO OVERCOME ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND DESIRE TO ASSOCIATE MORE CLOSELY WITH EC. (IN THIS CONNECTION FERGUSON NOTED JUNE 12 EC DECISION ASSOCIATE TURKEY WITH EC POLITICAL COOPERATION PROCESS AS HELPFUL STEP AND TAKEN OVER FRENCH OPPOSITION.) FCO OFFICIALS SAID THEY EXPECTED ECEVIT JUNE 21 MOSCOW VISIT TO BE ESSENTIALLY OPPORTUNITY FOR TURKEY TO "CATCH UP" WITH OTHERS IN WEST BUT NAVAL VISITS,EASED CONDITIONS FOR LAND TRANSPORT FROM SOVIET UNION TO MIDDLE EAST, AND RELAXATION OF VESSEL RESTRICTIONS THRU STRAITS WERE POSSIBILITIES FOR FUTURE. IN BRITISH VIEW, MOST LIKELY (AND SERIOUS) FOCUS OF TURKISH REACTION SHOULD EMBARGO CONTINUE WOULD BE CYPRUS. APRIL PROPOSALS WOULD BE "FROZEN" AND THERE WOULD BE PROBLEMS FOR UNFICYP OPERATIONS IN NORTH, BUT UDI WOULD PROBABLY NOT OCCUR
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PAGE 02 LONDON 09562 02 OF 02 161114Z

IMMEDIATELY.

5. WITH REGARD TURKISH ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, FCO OFFICIALS SAID BRITISH POSSIBILITIES FOR NEW ECONOMIC (OR MILITARY) AID WERE LIMITED BUT EVEN MODEST POSSIBILITIES WOULD BE HARDER SHOULD TURKS ACT "IRRESPONSIBLY."

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